

Message Text

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46

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 IGA-02 EUR-25

RSR-01 /141 W

----- 039227

R 241249Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7209

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI SA MASS

SUBJ: ANNUAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REPORT

REF: STATE 143258, JIDDA 3077

1. WHILE KUWAIT OBVIOUSLY NOT AS IMPORTANT A COUNTRY TO US AS SAUDI ARABIA, RATIONALE CONTAINED JIDDA 3077 FOR KEEPING SALES OF SIGNIFICANT COMBAT EQUIPMENT CONFIDENTIAL APPLIES EQUALLY AND IN FULL TO THIS COUNTRY. RECENT WIDE PUBLICITY OVER US-KUWAITI ARMS NEGOTIATIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOK IN ITS EFFORT MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL POSTURZJOF SOLID BUT DISCREET FRIENDSHIP WITH US; (AND JUST HOW MUCH ADVERSE EFFECT THIS PUBLICITY HAS HAD ON OUR ARMS SALES PROSPECTS HERE IS YET TO BE SEEN). DISCLOSURE OF OUR ARMS SALES TO KUWAIT IN OFFICIAL USG PUBLICATION WOULD GREATLY INCREASE KUWAIT'S PROBLEMS WITH HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH AMERICAN ARMAMENTS.

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2. MOREOVER, GOK CONVINCED THAT FOR POLITICAL/COSMETIC REASONS, IT MUST GIVE BOTH UK AND FRANCE PIECE OF THE ACTION ON KUWAIT'S ARMS PURCHASES. OUR DISCLOSURE OF US SHARE COULD CAUSE KUWAITIS TO DECIDE THROW LARGE PORTION OR ALL FUTURE SALES OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR COMPETITORS.

3. FINALLY, RATIONALE FOR GOK PURCHASE OF WEAPONS BASED LARGELY ON DETERRENT EFFECT THEY HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE ON IRAQI DESIGNS ON KUWAIT. WHILE THEY WANT IRAQIS TO KNOW THEY SERIOUS ABOUT DEFENDING THEMSELVES, DISCLOSURE OF DETAILS REGARDING THEIR WEAPONS WOULD, IN KUWAITI EYES, "BLOW" SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF DETERRENCE AND CONSTITUTE BREACH OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US AND KUWAIT.
STOLTZFUS

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Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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